

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I live in Asheville, NC area where the ABC affiliate is owned by Sinclair Broadcasting. It has been obvious that Sinclair is using the news programs to promote a radical conservative bias. News should be balanced and fair. When there are editorials given, there should be opportunities for rebuttals. This airing of an anti-Kerry 'documentary' is should not in any way be considered to be part of a news program, it is an hour-long campaign commercial. If it were to be considered an editorial piece, they should be required to run an anti-Bush documentary in equal time. This is a blatant misuse of the public airways and an attempted manipulation of the voters that should not be allowed. By allowing Sinclair Broadcasting to use the public airways to pursue a hidden agenda is another step closer to losing our democracy and moving toward fascism. This is not in the public interest.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.